GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5993
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2001
UTILIZATION OF INLAND WATERWAYS
A. VENKATESH NAIK

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether India`s Inland Waterways remained grossly underutilized;

(b) if so, the share of Inland Waterways Transport in the total cargo movement;

(c) the total Kilometre navigable waterways alongwith the waterways suitable for mechanised craft and the total Kms. declared as National Watertways so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to utilize the capacity of underutilized waterways?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Yes Sir,

(b) Cargo moved by Inland Water Transport mode is between 1 to 1.5 billion tonne Kms. which is less than 1% of the total cargo movement.

(c) The total length of navigable waterways is about 14500 kms out of which 5700 kms is suitable for mechanised craft. The total length of 3 waterways declared is 2716 kms. i.e. the Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad, National Waterway No.1 (1620 kms), the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya, National Waterway No. 2 (891 kms) and the West Coast Canal alongwith Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals, National Waterway No. 3 (205 kms).

(d) Inland Waterways Authority of India was set up in 1986 for development and regulation of inland waterways for the purposes of shipping and navigation. The Government has accorded high priority for development of inland waterways. Techno-economic feasibility studies have been conducted on some more waterways. Their declaration and subsequent development will depend upon availability of resources. Loan assistance by way of reimbursement upto 50% of approved scheme cost is being provided to the State Governments under Central Sponsored Scheme for development of inland waterways other than National Waterways. Further a pachage of several measures to boost development of Inland Water Transport and to attract private sector investment in this sector has recently been approved by the Cabinet.